

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. Fig. 1 has been amended to conform more clearly with its corresponding detailed description.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Claims **1, 2, 4-9, and 13-21** stand rejected.

Claims **3, 10-12, and 22** stand objected.

Claims **1 and 21** have been amended.

Continued appreciation is expressed for the indication of allowability of claims 3, 10-12, and 22.

Figure 1 has been amended to correct a labeling error. Labels 140 and 141 of the original drawings were inadvertently omitted in the formal drawings that were submitted in the May 31, 2005 response and have been added by amendment herein. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Although applicants respectfully disagree with the comments from the November 15, 2005 Advisory Action that the amended claims change the scope of the invention, the amended claims are included in this Preliminary Amendment. The amendments explicitly include an operation where one of the first and the second rings is identified as being associated with the shortest path, and, in response to identifying this path, determining if the identified ring is more congested than the other. The applicants respectfully submit these amended claims for the Request for Continued Examination application filed herewith, and more importantly, in the event that the Examiner plans to reject these claims in view of Yim and/or Hluchyj, applicants incorporate by reference herein the arguments presented in the Response to Final Office Action filed October 31, 2005.

CONCLUSION


In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5089.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 28, 2005.


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11/28/05
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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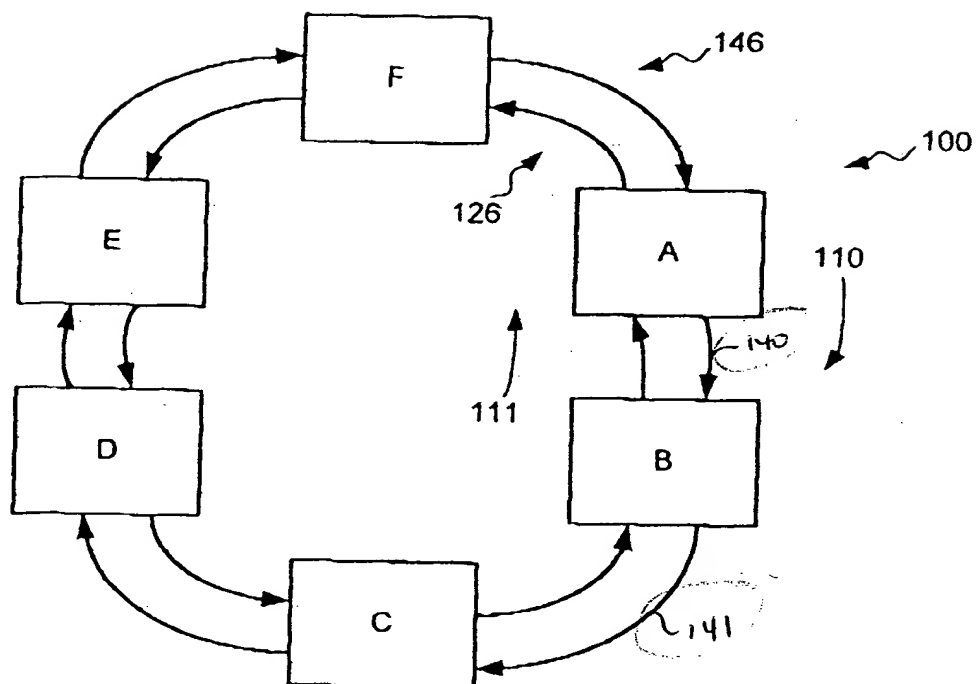


Fig. 1